

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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GENEVA FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS SITUATION

REF: STATE 176660 NOTAL

PERTINENT EXCERPTS DEPARTMENT AUGUST 13 NEWS BRIEFING
FOLLOW:

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QUOTE: Q: CAN YOU GIVE US SOME RUNDOWN OF WHAT THE SEC-
RETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN UP TO ON CYPRUS? I MEAN, WE KEEP
READING ABOUT IT FROM OVERSEAS.

A: THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE BEEN IN DAILY TOUCH ABOUT IT. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, INCLUDING FOUR TIMES BY TELEPHONE DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS, AND WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN BY TELEPHONE AND PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS BY LETTER AND WITH CYPRIOT LEADERS.

THE UNITED STATES POSITION IS AS FOLLOWS:

WE RECOGNIZE THE POSITION OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY ON CYPRUS REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION. WE HAVE SUPPORTED A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR THEM.

THE PARTIES ARE NEGOTIATING ON ONE OR MORE TURKISH AUTONOMOUS AREAS. THE AVENUES OF DIPLOMACY HAVE NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED. AND, THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONSIDER A RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION UNJUSTIFIED.

WE HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES.

Q: DOES THAT REFERENCE TO MILITARY ACTION REFER PRIMARILY TO A PRESUMED GREEK RETALIATION AGAINST THE TURKISH MOVES ON CYPRUS, WHICH HAVE BEEN MILITARY AND WHICH HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR A WEEK, AND WHICH WE APPARENTLY HAVE NOT PROTESTED AGAINST?

A: I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THIS -- THAT A RESORT TO MILITARY ACTION BY ANYONE WOULD BE UNJUSTIFIED. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS YOU COULD ASSUME.

Q: WELL, IS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION OF THE THREAT OF GREEK-TURKISH WARFARE?

A: I JUST WOULD RATHER NOT COMMENT ON THAT.
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Q: CAN YOU PUT THIS IN A TIME FRAME?

A: YES.

Q: WAS THE UNITED STATES CONCERNED? YOU HAD FOUR TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER IN 24 HOURS. THAT'S QUITE A BURST OF ACTIVITY HERE. HAS THIS HIGH ACTIVITY CONTINUED ALL WEEK LONG OR IS IT JUST THE LAST 24-48 HOURS?

A: NO. OVER THE WEEKEND THE SECRETARY WAS IN FREQUENT TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES ALSO.

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A PREFERRED PROPOSAL, OR IS THERE A PREFERRED PROPOSAL THAT IT SUPPORTS THAT WOULD GIVE THE TURKISH COMMUNITY GREATER AUTONOMY?

A: WE HAVE NO PROPOSAL. THERE'S NO U.S. PROPOSAL OR PLAN. BUT, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE FEEL THAT THE PARTIES MUST ARRIVE AT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION; AND WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

Q: MY QUESTION WAS BADLY STATED. IS THERE A PARTICULAR PROPOSAL THAT WOULD GRANT THE TURKISH COMMUNITY GREATER AUTONOMY THAT THE UNITED STATES AT THIS POINT SUPPORTS OR

PREFERS TO OTHER POSSIBILITIES?

A: I DON'T WISH TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON IN GENEVA. AND, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE ON THAT, WE ARE THERE TO BE OF ALL THE HELP WE CAN ON THAT FRONT.

Q: WOULD THE AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY EXTEND TO OUTRIGHT PARTITION?

A: NO, I DON'T WISH TO GET INTO ANY SPECIFICS HERE ON WHAT THE FUTURE DISPOSITION MIGHT BE ON CYPRUS. AS I'VE SAID EARLIER, A SOLUTION MUST BE SATISFACTORY TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIES, IF IT'S GOING TO WORK; AND THAT'S WHAT WE FAVOR.

Q: FOLLOWING UP ON STEWART'S OBSERVATION, THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR TELEPHONE MESSAGES IN 24 HOURS WITH THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER. THERE'S BEEN A LETTER SENT TO KARAMANLIS. THEREFORE, IT IS JUSTIFIABLE TO INFER, FROM WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, THAT THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE IS BEING PUT ON TURKEY, NOT ON GREECE; CORRECT?

A: WE ARE CONSULTING WITH ALL THE PARTIES. I MEAN THE SECRETARY WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND WITH CYPRIOT LEADERS AND TURKISH LEADERS AND THE GREEKS.

Q: IS IT WRONG TO INFER THAT MORE PRESSURE IS BEING PUT ON THE TURKS?

A: I WOULD NOT MAKE ANY INFERENCE HERE. I JUST WANTED TO LEAVE IT WHERE IT WAS.

Q: THE RECORD HERE, AS WE'VE HAD IT OVER THE LAST WEEK OR SO, SHOWS NOTHING ON THE PUBLIC RECORD INDICATING ANY U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THE EXTENDED TURKISH MOVEMENTS IN CYPRUS.

ARE WE TO CONSTRUE THAT SILENCE AS SIGNIFYING THAT ONLY NOW, WHEN THE SITUATION HAS REACHED A MORE ACUTE POINT, THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW BEGUN TO EXPRESS SOME CONCERN TO TURKEY ABOUT ITS GENERAL POSITION ON THE ISLAND?

A: YOU MAY ASSUME THAT.

Q: COULD YOU CHARACTERIZE SECRETARY KISSINGER AS AN INTER-MEDIARY OR A MODERATOR IN THIS PARTICULAR SITUATION? HAS THE FOCUS CHANGED TO HIM RATHER THAN THE BRITISH?

A: WELL, AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES, WE ARE NOT DIRECT PARTIES TO THIS NEGOTIATION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN HAS BEEN IN GENEVA; THE SECRETARY HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN THE VIEW THAT HE WANTS TO DO ANYTHING HE CAN TO BE HELPFUL IN SUPPORT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE GOING ON IN GENEVA

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Q: WERE THE FOUR TELEPHONE CALLS TO MR. ECEVIT PROMPTED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA OR ON CYPRUS?

A: I WOULDN'T LIKE TO CHARACTERIZE WHETHER IT WAS ONE OR THE OTHER. IT WAS JUST AN EFFORT ON OUR PART, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, TO DO ANYTHING WE CAN TO MOVE FORWARD THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO TRY AND BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON THE ISLAND.

Q: I SUPPOSE THIS IS AN IMPERTINENT QUESTION, BUT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO TREATY OBLIGATIONS SUCH AS BRITAIN HAS IN THIS AFFAIR.

A: CORRECT.

Q: AND YET MR. KISSINGER SEEMS TO BE MAKING GREAT USE OF THE TELEPHONE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES TO URGE SOMETHING ON THESE PEOPLE. NOW, ARE ALL OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE VARIOUS ADVERSARIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES SIMPLY PLEAS TO BE PEACEFUL, OR ARE THEY MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT? AND IF THEY ARE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT, WHAT ARE THEY?

A: WELL, LET ME GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK ON THE UNITED STATES ROLE, IF YOU WILL. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO TRY AND HELP ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON THE ISLAND AND THAT WE ARE THERE TO DO ANYTHING THAT THE PARTIES MAY WISH US TO DO. IF THEY FEEL WE CAN BE HELPFUL, WE ARE THERE AND READY TO HELP.

Q: THAT'S WHAT I AM GETTING AT THEN. WHO IS ASKING?

ARE THEY ASKING US TO DO THIS -- IS ONE SIDE ASKING US TO BRING PRESSURE ON THE OTHER, AND SO FORTH? I MEAN WHAT REASON DO WE HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY OR ARE USEFUL?

A: WE ARE NOT IMPOSING OUR VIEWS ON ANYONE. WE ARE EXCHANGING IDEAS WHEREVER WE CAN. SOMETIMES THE CALLS COME TO US; SOMETIMES IT IS THE OTHER WAY.

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Q: DOES THE GOVERNMENT IN LONDON SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION IN THIS, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WITH THE GREEKS, THE TURKS, AND OTHERS?

A: ON THAT JUST LET ME SAY THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND SECRETARY KISSINGER THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CYPRUS CRISIS HAVE BEEN WORKING EXTREMELY CLOSELY AND CORDIALLY TOGETHER.

Q: THIS DOESN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. MY QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT THE LONDON GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS OUR POSITION ON CYPRUS.

A: WE HAVE NO PLAN, WE HAVE NO PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS, AS I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES HERE BEFORE. WE'RE TRYING TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND DO WHAT WE CAN SO THAT THE PARTIES CAN RESOLVE THEIR DIFFICULTIES AND ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

Q: BUT YOU HAVE SAID IN YOUR STATEMENT THAT WE SUPPORT A GREATER DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR THE TURKISH COMMUNITY IN CYPRUS, WHICH IS A POSITION WHICH IS RATHER CLOSE TO THE TURKISH POSITION AND AT SOMEWHAT OF A DISTANCE FROM THE GREEK POSITION. I DON'T THINK THAT WHAT YOU HAVE SAID ON THE RECORD MAKES US AS MUCH OF AN IMPARTIAL INTERMEDIARY AS YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY.

A: WELL, I DON'T WISH TO COMMENT ON THE GREEK OR TURKISH OR ANY OTHER VIEWS TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF GREATER AUTONOMY ON CYPRUS. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO IT.

Q: WOULD THERE BE REQUIRED A TURKISH MILITARY PRESENCE ON CYPRUS TO PROVIDE EXTRA PROTECTION TO THE TURKISH PEOPLE?

A: I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS STAGE.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU GET WHAT YOU HAVE STATED HERE AS THE AMERICAN POSITION?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THE QUESTION OF THE PRESENT OR FUTURE PRESENCE OF TURKISH TROOPS. THIS IS

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SOMETHING THAT IS UNDER NEGOTIATION IN GENEVA. IT'S PART OF THE TALKS.

Q: AT THIS DATE PARTICULARLY THERE'S CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST IN PRESIDENT FORD'S ACTIVITIES. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN PUTTING IN LONG HOURS, AND I IMAGINE SOME OF THESE CALLS WERE NIGHTTIME CALLS. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IMPRESSION OF THE "TOUCH", AS YOU PUT IT, OF PRESIDENTIAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE SITUATION? DOES HE GET A REPORT? DOES HE KNOW OF EVERY TELEPHONE CALL BEFORE IT IS MADE, AFTER IT IS MADE? OR DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE CONSIDERABLE LEEWAY TO BE INNOVATIVE? CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA?

A: JUST LET ME SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY ARE AND HAVE BEEN AND ARE CONTINUING TO BE IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH ON A DAILY BASIS ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION.

Q: THERE IS STILL MORE INFORMATION IN THE BRITISH PRESS THAN YOU HAVE GIVEN US HERE, ABOUT THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN MR. CALLAGHAN AND THE SECRETARY. CAN'T YOU BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT ANY OF THIS? MUST WE READ THE SPECIFICS IN THE FOREIGN PRESS?

A: I DON'T WISH TO COMMENT ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND SECRETARY KISSINGER.

Q: OR EVEN THE FREQUENCY OF THE DISCUSSIONS IS MORE EXPLICIT IN THE BRITISH PRESS THAN IT IS HERE.

A: I BELIEVE THAT I SAW IN THE PRESS THAT THERE WERE THREE TELEPHONE CALLS YESTERDAY, AND I CAN CERTAINLY CONFIRM THAT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL ME WHY, IN THE COURSE OF THESE INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS THOUGHT NECESSARY TO REPLACE THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS?

A: AMBASSADOR TASCA HAS BEEN IN ATHENS FOR ALMOST FOUR AND A HALF TO FIVE YEARS AND HE WILL BE COMING BACK FOR A REASSIGNMENT.

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Q: WHEN WILL THAT BE?

A: PROBABLY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

Q: I MEAN, WELL, WILL THE NEW MAN GO IN THERE BEFORE

THEN? WILL KUBISCH GO IMMEDIATELY?

A: WELL, THAT WILL AWAIT SENATE CONFIRMATION I ASSUME.
I DO NOT HAVE ANY TIMING ON MR. KUBISCH'S ARRIVAL.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE LETTER TO
KARAMANLIS, WHEN IT WAS SENT OR WHEN IT WAS DELIVERED,
OR THE NATURE OF IT?

A: NO, I CANNOT GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE. IT WAS
DELIVERED THIS MORNING, ATHENS TIME.

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO WHERE WE STARTED OUT ON
CYPRUS, AND ASK IF IT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTEN-
TION HERE ESSENTIALLY TO SHOW THAT THE UNITED STATES
HAS BEEN PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE DIPLOMACY, OR
WHETHER IT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO
EXPRESS SOME DEGREE OF CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER OF A
SPREAD OF THE FIGHTING. WHICH IS IT THAT THE STATEMENT
IS SUPPOSED TO REFLECT?

A: WELL, I WAS ASKED WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING. THAT WAS
THE INITIAL QUESTION THAT I RECEIVED IN THIS BRIEFING,
AND I ATTEMPTED TO OUTLINE WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
BEEN DOING. AND WE ALSO ARE CONCERNED THAT THE EFFORTS
TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THROUGH THE
NEGOTIATING TABLE IN GENEVA CONTINUE, AND THAT THERE IS
NO RESORT TO FORCE WHICH WOULD REPLACE THESE DIPLOMATIC
EFFORTS IN GENEVA.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU ARE MORE WORRIED NOW THAN
YOU WERE A FEW DAYS AGO ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW
OUTBREAK OF MILITARY ACTION?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT OUR CONCERN HAS INCREASED IN
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RECENT DAYS.

Q: WELL, THERE IS AN ULTIMATUM, ISN'T THERE, ON THE
TABLE BY THE TURKS THAT THEY WOULD RESUME THE FIGHTING
AT A CERTAIN POINT -- WHAT WAS IT, TONIGHT?

A: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY ULTIMATUM, AS YOU REFER TO IT;
AS YOU HAVE DESCRIBED IT, I AM UNAWARE OF THAT. END
QUOTE KISSINGER

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